

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Qingquan SU et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2001_1479A

Filed October 2, 2001

HYDROGEN PRODUCTION METHOD AND
APPARATUS BY GASIFICATION OF
COMBUSTIBLES[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/02149
Filed April 3, 2001]SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

Kindly add new claims 19-21 as follows.

19. (New) A hydrogen production method by gasification of combustibles such as combustible wastes or coal, said method comprising a gasification step for gasifying combustibles and a gas processing step for producing hydrogen by refining the gas produced in said gasification step, said gas processing step comprising:

a gas scrubbing step for absorbing and removing dust and a trace amount of acid gases such as hydrogen chloride and hydrogen sulfide in the produced gas obtained in said step, wherein by bringing the produced gas into contact with water or alkali solution, and